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Title: Need to set up a new cancer hospital in Nagpur and to grant financial assistance to Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur to purchase additional equipment.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): I wish to bring to your notice an alarming statistical fact that as per Indian Cancer Registry, Nagpur city is showing highest cancer incidence in its population as compared to Mumbai, Pune and Aurangabad in Maharashtra State. In fact, Nagpur has recorded third highest incidence of Breast Cancer and Esophagus in females and second highest number of oral cases in India.

Because of its geographically central location and good railway connectivity, patients from all over Vidarbha as well as adjoining three states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh come for diagnosis and treatment at Nagpur. Most of these patients belong to socially and economically backward communities who cannot afford treatment in private hospitals.

Government Medical college and hospital at Nagpur which has Radiation Therapy facility with a single Cobalt unit and Brachytherapy is catering to 2000 new cancer patients annually. The single Cobalt unit machine is being used to its fullest capacity as 80 patients are being treated with radiotherapy per day. There is long waiting lists of patients who have to wait for three months to be treated for cancer, which is unethical from the cancer treatment point of view. Therefore, they have requested for sanction of 55 crore for the procurement of additional equipment. Similarly, there is another hospital Rashtrasant Tukdoji Regional Cancer Hospital being managed by the Cancer Relief Society, Nagpur for treatment of cancer patients. Despite the available facilities, the two hospitals are unable to cater to the need to the cancer patients.

In view of the above, there is an urgent need for setting up a new world class dedicated Cancer Hospital in Nagpur for treatment of rapidly growing
number of cancer patients. Meanwhile, I would urge upon the Government to urgently consider granting financial assistance to Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur to purchase additional equipment in order to serve the large number of cancer patients.